

Message Text

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15
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-07 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 /074 W
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P R 071016Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9312
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
DIA
USMISSION NATO
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY
AMCONGEN MILAN
AMCONGEN NAPLES
US DOCOSOUTH
SHAPEUSNR

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US DOCOSOUTH FOR INTAF
SHAPEUSNR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IT
SUBJECT: ANDREOTTI WINS SENATE TEST

1. AS EXPECTED, ANDREOTTI'S MINORITY CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT GOVERNMENT RECEIVED ITS INITIAL VOTE OF CONFIDENCE FROM THE SENATE LATE AUGUST 6. THE VOTE WAS 136 IN FAVOR, 17 AGAINST, AND 69 ABSTAINING. ONE-HUNDRED SENATORS (ABSTAINERS) LEFT THE HALL TO REDUCE THE NUMBER VOTING TO 222, LOWERING THE MAJORITY REQUIRED FOR PASSAGE TO 112. TWO ALTOADIGE, ONE VA D'ACSTA AND ONE INDEPENDENT VOTED WITH THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS. TWO "INDEPENDENT-LEFT" SENATORS JOINED

THE 15 NEO-FASCIST MSI/DN IN VOTING AGAINST. THE PCI, PSI, PSDI, PRI AND PLI SUPPORTED THE GOVERNMENT THROUGH ABSTENTIONS. DEBATE IN THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES WILL BEGIN MONDAY, AUGUST 9.

2. SPEAKING TO THE SENATE AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE DEBATE, ANDREOTTI FIRMLY REJECTED THE MSI/DN'S SURPRISE OFFER TO ABSTAIN PROVIDED THE DC FORMALLY ASSERTED IT DID NOT SEEK ABSTENTIONS FOR THE PCI. ANDREOTTI ASSERTED THAT BY APPEALING FOR SUPPORT FROM THE PARTIES OF THE "CONSTITUTIONAL ARC," THE DC SPECIFICALLY EXCLUDED PARTICIPATION OF ANY MOVEMENT SEEKING TO RE-ESTABLISH FASCISM. COMMENT: A MSI/DN ABSTENTION WOULD HAVE BEEN NOT ONLY SERIOUSLY EMBARRASSING FOR THE DC BUT WOULD HAVE ALSO CERTAINLY UNRAVELLED THE ANDREOTTI GOVERNMENT'S UNDERPINNING OF ABSTENTIONS FROM THE LEFT. SEVERAL COMMENTATORS TODAY WONDER WHY THE MSI/DN ATTACHED UNTENABLE CONDITIONS (FORMAL DC REJECTION OF PCI SUPPORT) TO THEIR SPOILING OFFER. MOST OBSERVERS BELIEVE THAT WHILE THE SPLINTER MSI/DN "REFORM" GROUP PUSHED FOR A POLICY OF SIMPLE ABSTENTION, PARTY LEADER ALMIRANTE WON OUT BY INSISTING THAT THE OFFER TO ABSTAIN BE ENCUMBERED WITH KNOWINGLY UNACCEPTABLE CONDITIONS. END COMMENT.

3. ANDREOTTI ALSO REITERATED THAT PS GOVERNMENT WOULD SEEK THE CLOSEST POSSIBLE COLLABORATION WITH PARLIAMENT. HE DESCRIBED IT AS A "PROGRAMMATIC SERVICE GOVERNMENT." HOWEVER, ANDREOTTI STRESSED THAT EACH PARTY'S VOTE WAS FREE AND INDEPENDENT: "THERE HAS NOT BEEN, BETWEEN THE PARTIES AND THE GOVERNMENT, ANY HIDDEN UNDERSTANDINGS." REJECTING AN "ASSEMBLY" FORM OF GOVERNMENT, ANDREOTTI INSISTED THAT ANY DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN THE PARTIES AND THE GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE

PLACE IN PARLIAMENT. BEAUDRY

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